

As a graduate student in civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University studying offshore wind energy, I had the opportunity to give these same oral comment to Minerals Management Service (MMS) on July 10, 2006 in West Babylon. At Stanford, I have studied the economic, societal, and environmental impacts of technology like wind power. I believe the MMS should strongly consider the impacts of global warming when considering the environmental impacts of the Long Island Offshore Wind Park (LIIOWP).

Global warming will be the most significant problem to face the current generation of young people in America and the world. Carbon dioxide emissions from dirty coal and petroleum facilities that generate electricity for Long Island are directly responsible for global warming. Global warming has been scientifically proven to exist among peer reviewed climate research and is a real problem. A warming of a few degrees Celsius (which has been predicted by peer reviewed climate research) causing sea level to rise by several meters combined with the inevitable hurricane could completely obliterate Long Island. In September 1938, the "Long Island Express" hurricane roared through Long Island and New England, killing over 60 people on Long Island alone and more than 600 people total. The category four hurricane's storm surge caused a massive amount of personal property destruction.

Recent research shows that as sea surface temperatures rise as a direct result of global warming, the frequency of class 4 and 5 hurricanes increases [1]. Long Island has a vested interest in reducing its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions to mitigate the impacts global warming. The LIIOWP would reduce CO₂ emissions and thus reduce the chance of a hurricane destroying life, infrastructure, and personal property. Please take global warming and its potential impacts into account when writing the environmental impact statement for the LIIOWP.

Sincerely,
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REFERENCES

[1] P. J. Webster, et al. Changes in Tropical Cyclone Number, Duration, and Intensity in a Warming Environment. Science 16 September 2005: Vol. 309. no. 5742, pp. 1844 - 1846